

I. REMARKS

A. Status of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 21-23, 25 and 27 were indicated as pending in the Office Action. Claims 16-17 and 22 were allowed. Claim 18 was objected because the word "microorganism" was misspelled. Office Action, page 6. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, 21, 23, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, allegedly for the failure to satisfy the written description requirement of the statute.

B. Claim Amendments and Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections of claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, 21, 23, 25 and 27, at least for the reasons set forth in the Amendment and Request For Reconsideration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed on February 9, 2005. Nonetheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants cancelled claims 1-15, 21, 23, 25 and 27. Applicants reserve all their rights to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or any related applications.

Applicants amended claim 18 to correct the misspelling of "microorganism". Applicants also amended claim 18 to correct section (b). Support for the amendment of section (b) is found in the specification, considered as a whole, e.g., at page 7, lines 17-28, page 8, lines 11-13 and in claim 16.

Applicants also amended claim 16 to correct a typographical error.

Since Applicants cancelled all rejected claims, and amended claim 18, as suggested by the Examiner, all claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that no new matter is submitted in this Amendment. Applicants also submit that no new issues are introduced by this Amendment. For example, the amended section (b) of claim 18 is substantially the same as section (b) of claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the claim amendments.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

For at least the reasons detailed above, Applicants respectively submit that all of the claims in the application are patentable. Favorable consideration, entry of this amendment, and issuance of a notice of allowance for all pending claims are respectively requested.

In the event any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' representatives to resolve such issues in an expeditious manner, and place the application in condition for allowance.

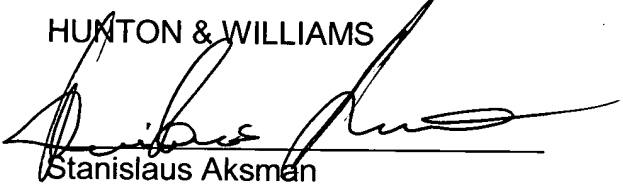
It is believed that no additional fees are necessary. However, in the event that any fees are necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees or credit overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Date: November 29, 2005

By:


Stanislaus Aksman
Registration No. 28,562

and

Scott F. Yarnell
Registration No. 45,245

1900 K Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
Ph. (202) 955-1500
Fax (202) 778-2201